

# Sherman County School District



## Communication to the Community

Issue #29

From Sherman County  
School District  
Moro, Oregon

### WORKING TOGETHER TO PUT STUDENT SUCCESS FIRST

December 17, 2018

Dear Sherman County School District Students, Parents, Guardians, Families, and Staff,

Sherman County School is pleased to announce that the 2019 NICHE Best School Districts Ranking was recently released. The ranking is based on factors that include state test scores, college readiness, graduation rates, SAT/ACT scores, teacher quality, and public school district ratings. The Sherman County School District was ranked #14 out of 160 Districts in the State of Oregon. In addition, our teaching staff was ranked #6 for the Best Teachers in Oregon and we were ranked the #10 Best Places to Teach in Oregon. This is a perfect time to thank our entire school community for these strong marks. This ranking is directly related to our exceptional staff/students, dedicated School Board, and parents/guardians, community agencies, businesses and volunteers who consistently support our District.

Driven by a strong desire for continuous improvement, the entire Sherman County School Staff and School Board have been working diligently on strategic planning for the future. This collective effort assists us in focusing on identified areas of improvement and enhancement in order to maintain high quality education programs. Below are the staff developed and Board adopted Values, Beliefs, Goals, and Priorities for the 2018-19 School Year and beyond:

#### **District Values and Beliefs**

1. We believe that strong student/staff relationships foster improvements in academics, citizenship and attitudes.
2. We believe that positive community support, involvement and generosity are critical to student success.
3. We believe that the employees of the Sherman County School District have a united commitment in pursuit of the vision for academic and citizenship growth by all students.
4. We believe in providing a safe environment where the physical, social, emotional and academic needs of the students and staff can be met.
5. We believe that well-maintained facilities are an essential factor in providing a safe and accessible education to all.
6. We believe that our community and students deserve clean, safe, secure, well-equipped, and inviting facilities of which to be proud.

#### **District Goals and Priorities**

##### ❖ **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

- Focus on the growth and development of the foundational skills of reading, writing, math, and science with quality, fidelity, intensity and consistency to increase the level of student achievement by our students.
- Provide support and expanded programs
  1. to increase the numbers of students on track to graduate;
  2. to increase opportunities for students in Career Technical Education (CTE); and,
  3. to increase student awareness of post-secondary opportunities and track the success of students a year after high school.

##### ❖ **STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

- Promote a productive working and professional growth environment and activities which attract, develop and retain high-quality staff.
- Continue the implementation of ORTLi and PBIS to improve academic and behavioral outcomes for students.

##### ❖ **SAFETY**

- In partnership with the Sherman County Sheriff's Office and the Multi-Agency Safety Committee continue the implementation of the Board-adopted safety measures which will ensure a safe and orderly school environment that meets current and future needs of students, staff, and the community.

##### ❖ **PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- Continue to foster a welcoming environment for parents/families/guardians/community members and invite them to participate as partners in the education of their students.

Our ability to improve is dependent on your comments, suggestions, and constructive criticism. Please feel free to call me at 541-565-3500 or send an email message to [wowens@sherman.k12.or.us](mailto:wowens@sherman.k12.or.us).

With Winter Break approaching, I would like to extend to you and your family best wishes from everyone at Sherman County School. Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Wes Owens  
Superintendent